

# Your travel guide to Australia



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Australian Sky 





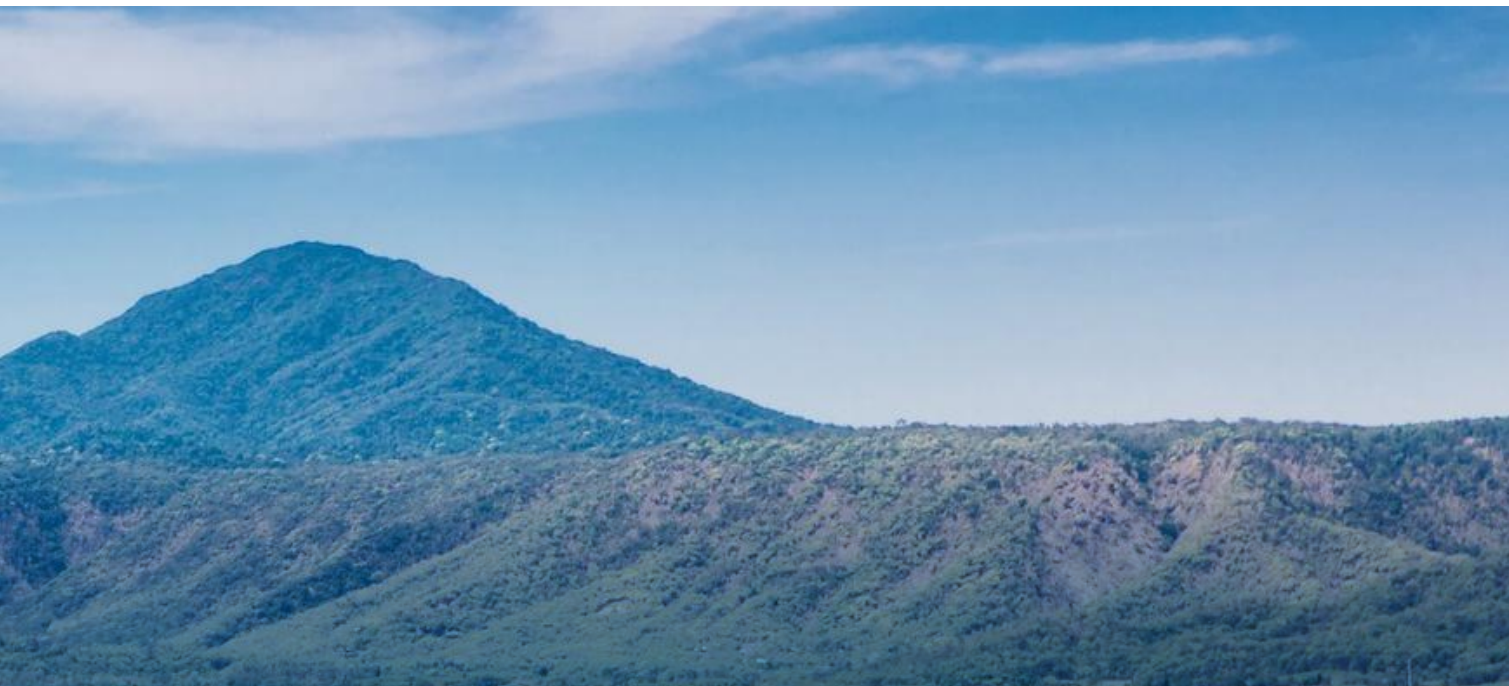
WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO

# Australia

Ready to book the trip of a lifetime to Australia?  
With so much to see and do, it's natural to feel overwhelmed. But don't worry – we're here to help you every step of the way, making the process simple, stress-free, and tailored to your dream holiday.

Port Douglas





## What you'll find in this guide:

- **Expert guidance**  
We have travelled through Australia extensively to find the best experiences and recommendations for you.
- **Different ways to travel**  
From self-drives to escorted tours, we'll talk you through all the options to find your travel style.
- **Advice on when and where to go**  
We'll recommend the best regions and best times to visit based on different interests.
- **Tips for your journey**  
We'll help you choose your stopovers, turning them into memorable parts of your journey.



## Why book your holiday with us?

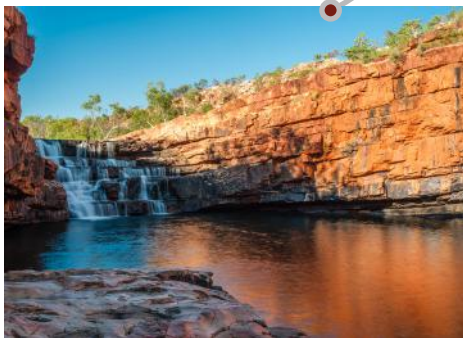
- **We have 20 years of experience**  
Our award-winning team has been creating bespoke experiences in Australia for over two decades.
- **Every trip is customised**  
Tailored to your preferences for the best Australian experience.
- **We work with a trusted local partner**  
They will be there for you around the clock, allowing peace of mind.
- **You can fly from regional airports**  
We offer flights across the UK and Ireland for added convenience.
- **Your money is safe with us.**  
We're fully licensed with ATOL in the UK and IAA in Ireland, ensuring top service and financial security.



## THE BEST TIMES TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

You can travel to Australia year-round, although the best time of year depends on the regions you want to visit. We've suggested the best times to visit each region. No matter when you go, we recommend at least two weeks, but three weeks is ideal for a truly memorable trip.

Australia's climate is diverse, ranging from tropical in the north to temperate in the south. Overall, the country experiences hot summers, mild winters, and abundant sunshine year-round, perfect for outdoor adventures.



### Gibb River Road

We recommend visiting the Gibb River Road from May to September, the dry season. Roads are open, and gorges are at their most accessible, perfect for travelling this rugged outback route.



### Ningaloo Reef

We recommended visiting from March to July for the best snorkelling and diving experiences with whale sharks. Enjoy the warm weather and excellent water visibility.



### Margaret River

October to April is ideal for beach days, surfing, and wine tasting. This region enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with warm, dry days perfect for exploring vineyards and coastal scenery.





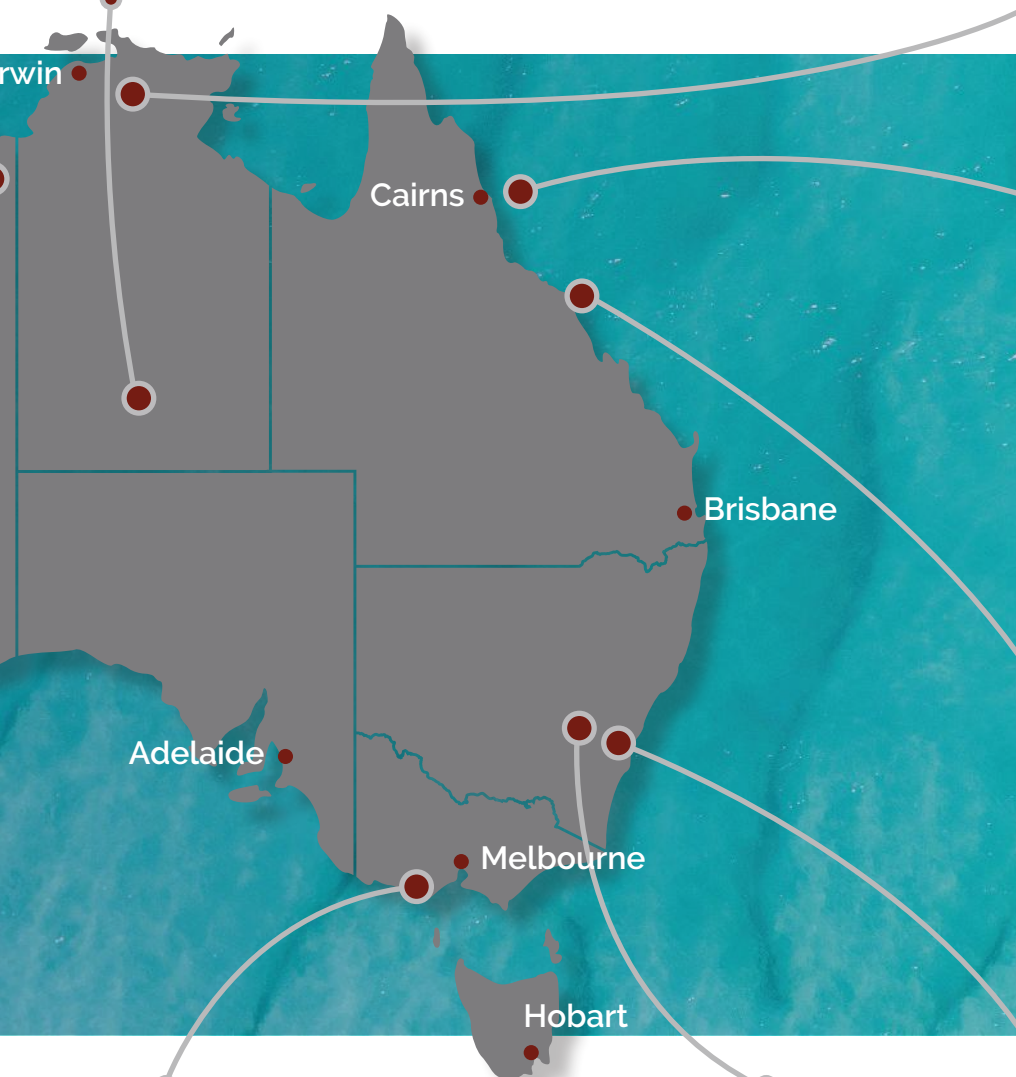
### The Red Centre

May to September offers cooler, more manageable temperatures for exploring Uluru and Kings Canyon. Expect clear desert skies, fewer flies, and perfect conditions for outdoor adventures.



### Kakadu National Park

Located in the Northern Territory, Kakadu National Park is best visited from May to October. With clear skies and open roads, it's ideal for wildlife spotting, hiking, and exploring waterfalls.



### Great Barrier Reef

The reef is tropical year-round, but June to October offers ideal underwater visibility, calmer seas, and lower humidity, perfect for snorkelling, diving, and exploring vibrant coral ecosystems.



### Whitsundays

Visit between June and October for warm weather and clear skies. These months are ideal for beach time, reef trips, and scenic cruising around the islands.



### Great Ocean Road

For sunny coastal drives and wildlife watching, visit between November and April. Expect mild temperatures, scenic views, and beach stops along one of Australia's most famous road trip routes.



### Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains are best from September to November and March to May. Comfortable temperatures and fewer showers make for great hiking and sightseeing conditions.



### Sydney

Sydney enjoys a warm climate year-round. Visit between September and November or March and May for pleasant temperatures and less rain, ideal for exploring the harbour and Opera House views.



## OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Australia is a destination full of variety, from vibrant cities to ancient natural wonders. Whether you're after world-class beaches, indigenous culture, or breathtaking landscapes, Australia delivers unforgettable experiences.

# A land of contrasts

For city lovers, visit **Sydney**, Australia's iconic city. Enjoy harbour strolls and soak in panoramic views from the Sydney Opera House. After relaxing on the golden sands of Bondi Beach, dive into the city's nightlife or take a sunset cruise across the sparkling harbour. Just a short drive away, the **Blue Mountains** are a must. Perfect for nature lovers, enjoy a rugged yet stunning region of forest-shrouded mountains, cascading waterfalls and charming villages. On your way back, try a wine trail in the Hunter Valley.

Brisbane offers a laid-back yet sophisticated escape. Enjoy riverside dining and galleries before heading to the Sunshine Coast, with golden beaches, luxury resorts and lively nightlife.



No trip to Queensland is complete without seeing the **Great Barrier Reef**, the world's largest coral reef system. Cruise to the outer edges and snorkel or dive among vibrant marine life or stay dry from a semi-submersible craft. Nearby, the **Whitsundays** offer a picture-perfect escape. Sail and snorkel the turquoise waters and view the pristine white sands of Whitehaven Beach. For something unique, explore K'Gari (Fraser Island), or visit the wonderful rainforests in Daintree National Park.

Venture inland to Australia's **Red Centre**, where the country's spiritual and geological heart reveals itself in the Northern Territory. Watch the sun rise and set over the majestic Uluru, glowing in ever-changing colours. Nearby, the dramatic domes of Kata Tjuta and the steep sandstone walls of Watarrka (Kings Canyon) offer unforgettable hiking experiences.

In the tropical north, **Kakadu National Park** blends ancient rock art, crocodile-filled wetlands, and Indigenous culture creating stunning natural landscapes and endless outdoor activities. Venture further to Arnhem Land, the glorious Lichfield National Park with towering termite mounds or kayak or cruise in the beautiful Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge).



“We were so pleased we booked with Australian Sky, they gave us proper advice and guidance on where to stay and what to see. Most of all, our holiday was unhurried, stopping off a few days at a time to properly explore areas. We highly recommend and thank you.”



Great Barrier Reef

Head west to Western Australia, where sunshine dominates and nature reigns supreme. In Perth, enjoy a fusion of beachside relaxation and cosmopolitan culture. The **Gibb River Road** offers a remote adventure through the Kimberley's spectacular gorges and red rock landscapes, perfect for thrill seekers. For marine life, **Ningaloo Reef** is a dream, one of the few places in the world where you can swim with whale sharks right off the beach. And for those who love the finer things, **Margaret River** serves up exceptional wines, farm-to-table cuisine, and dramatic coastal scenery.



Yarra Valley

In South Australia, discover the elegance of Adelaide, a city known for its world-class food and wine scene, leafy boulevards, and vibrant arts festivals. Just a short flight or ferry ride away, Kangaroo Island offers a wildlife-rich paradise, expect sea lions lounging on the beach, koalas in the trees, and dramatic cliffs plunging into sapphire waters. This is also home to some of the most famous wineries in the world.

Down in Victoria, Melbourne enchants with its hidden laneways, fine dining, and buzzing arts scene. From here, take to the road and follow the famed **Great Ocean Road**, a dramatic coastal drive featuring surf beaches, rainforest walks, and the towering limestone stacks of the Twelve Apostles. Hike in Wilsons Promontory National Park and stay in the Mornington Peninsula on the way to Melbourne.

Finally, visit Tasmania and take in the wild beauty of Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake. These create a pristine haven for hikers and photographers, perfect for those seeking raw natural landscapes, gourmet local produce, and quiet luxury retreats.



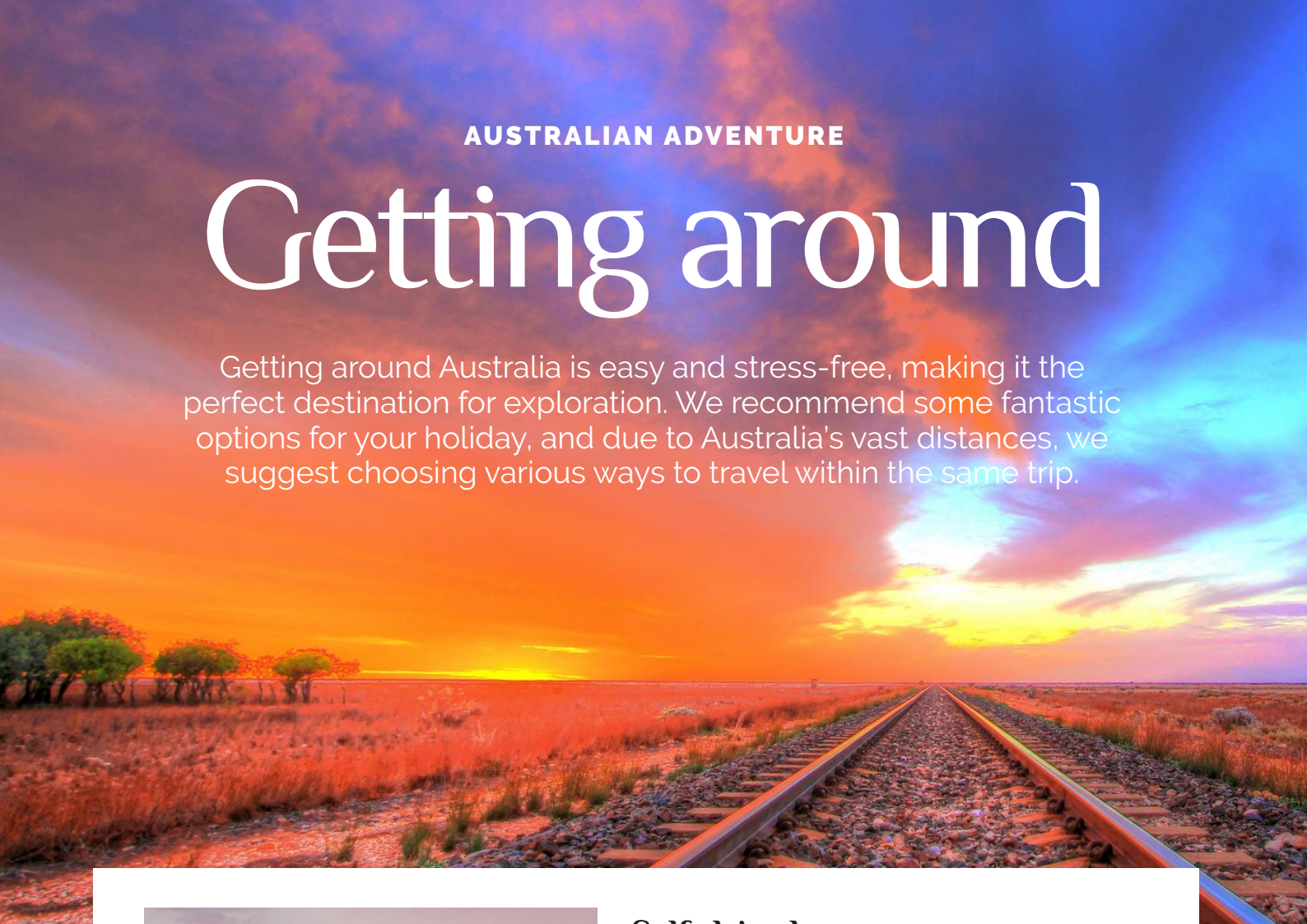
Dove Lake



## AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

# Getting around

Getting around Australia is easy and stress-free, making it the perfect destination for exploration. We recommend some fantastic options for your holiday, and due to Australia's vast distances, we suggest choosing various ways to travel within the same trip.



### Self-drive by car

A self-drive itinerary gives you the opportunity to explore Australia at your own pace. When booking, we can personalise your itinerary, giving you suggestions on where to go and which activities to book.

We recommend hiring a car for some of, or all of your trip, for great value and flexibility. They drive on the left-hand side just like us, making it easy to navigate

### Self-drive by motorhome

We recommend a motorhome holiday for more seasoned drivers or those with plenty of time to explore at a slower pace and spend more nights in each destination. Adventure through Australia in a motorhome, stopping off at campsites along the way.

Plus, with us, you're never alone. Our 24/7 support team in Australia is just a call away if you need help or have questions.







## Domestic flights

Australia offers affordable domestic flights between regions, and our twin and multi-centre holidays make the most of this fast, efficient way to travel. Perfect for all kinds of travellers, you can enjoy urban culture, coastal beauty, and outback adventures, all in a single itinerary. Pair a city and a beach break, like Sydney and the Whitsundays, or go for a contrast with Melbourne's food scene and Tasmania's wild coastline.



## Escorted tours

If you'd prefer not to drive, our escorted tours are a fantastic option. You'll travel in comfort with a group of like-minded people, and a knowledgeable guide will ensure you don't miss any highlights. Many of our customers say they've made lifelong friends on these trips. Perfect for solo travellers or couples looking to make new connections, our tours offer a wonderful way to enjoy the country with others.

### Short tours

A short tour is a great way to add exciting experiences to your Australian holiday. Whether you are visiting friends or family, or looking to add to your tailor-made itinerary, these short tours ranging from one to five nights are a perfect addition.

### Adventure tours

For those craving adventure, Australia is perfect. Our adventure holidays are ideal for those seeking thrilling waves or enjoying a peaceful walk through a nature reserve. Our itineraries have something for everyone.

## Rail

Rail tours offer a unique vantage point for exploring the beauty and heritage of Australia from a different perspective. Ride the Indian Pacific or the Ghana to enjoy the east to west, or the south to north of Australia.





PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA



● the  
journey  
is the destination





We're not keen on the word: stopovers. In our opinion, the long journey to Australia is part of the holiday experience, not just a step along the way.

Taking a break in another destination can turn that long flight into a series of exciting mini-adventures, helping you recharge and avoid fatigue. On your way to Australia, you can stop off in vibrant destinations like Dubai, Indonesia, Hong Kong, or Fiji. A two-night stay in one of these places can make all the difference, allowing you to start your holiday early and arrive in Australia feeling refreshed.

The same goes for the journey home – after an adventure-filled holiday, why not round it off with a relaxing city break in Singapore? A few days exploring cheerful markets, fascinating cultural museums and high-end restaurants could be just what you need to extend your holiday vibes before heading back.

We know Australia is one of the furthest destinations to reach, but many of our customers who've upgraded their flights say it's well worth it. While they wouldn't usually choose it, the ability to lie down and enjoy premium services made the journey much more restful, leaving them recharged and ready to enjoy the adventure ahead or the downtime on the way back.

**“Without Alex’s knowledge and patience, we would have tried to see and do too much in Australia. Instead, we discovered great hidden gems and some secret spots that were recommended. This was a wonderful adventure made superb by Australian Sky, we loved every minute.”**

## Visas

You'll need a visa to enter Australia. Visas must be obtained prior to departure for leisure visits, which can be easily done online.

## Time Difference

Australia spans three time zones.

Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) is GMT + 10 hours, which includes New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) is GMT + 9.5 hours, including South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) is GMT + 8 hours, which includes Western Australia.

## Flights between different regions

Australia spans nearly three million square miles, yet efficient domestic flights make regional travel quick and easy, with good quality, affordable airlines connecting most of the largest cities.





# Fly and self-drive inspiration



Embrace the open road on this suggested three-week fly and self-drive itinerary. From ancient wonders to golden beaches, each stop brings a new adventure, and we tailor every itinerary to you.

## **DAY 1-3: Sydney**

Begin your journey with three days in Sydney, where iconic landmarks and beaches await. Take the ferry to Manly Beach and have lunch at one of the seafront restaurants. Wander through the Rocks district, the Botanical Gardens and take in the views of the mighty Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. This is one of the greatest cities in the world.

## **DAY 4-5: Blue Mountains**

Collect your rental car and start your self-drive adventure with two days in the stunning, not-to-be-missed Blue Mountains. Marvel at dramatic sandstone rock formations, cascading waterfalls, and vast eucalyptus forests. Explore scenic bushwalking trails, underground caves and rock formations like the Three Sisters. There are great hiking trails, and having your car allows you far better access to the hidden gems.



## **DAY 6-7: Uluru**

After returning your rental car, fly from Sydney to Uluru for your sixth and seventh days. Your driver guide will take you up close and circle the base of Uluru to view ancient rock art. Learn Aboriginal history, visit Mutitjulu Waterhole, and witness the incredible colour changes of Uluru at sunset, with a glass of sparkling wine. Explore Kata Tjuta's domes and walk through Walpa Gorge at sunrise for unforgettable views.

## **DAY 8: Kings Canyon**

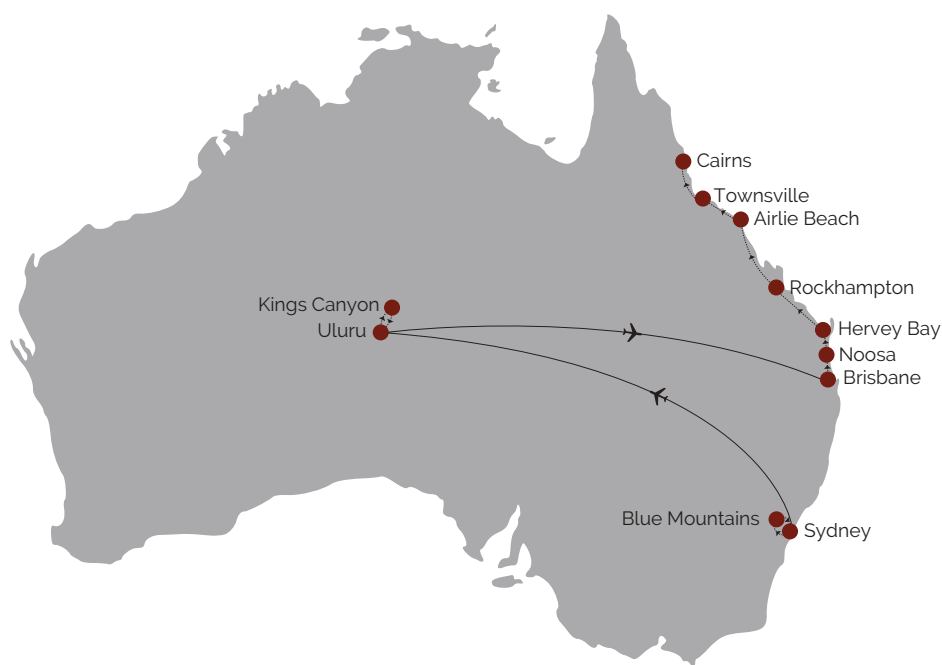
Conclude your outback journey at Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park. Join a guided Rim Walk for panoramic views over rugged cliffs or explore the canyon floor along the Creek Bed Walk. Afterwards, you will fly from Uluru to Brisbane for the rest of your self-drive experience.



## **DAY 9: Brisbane**

Travel to Brisbane, one of Australia's fastest-growing cities. Discover the skyline on a river cruise and spot iconic sights like Story Bridge and Kangaroo Point Cliffs. Or, walk the riverside path to South Bank, home to a sparkling lagoon, cultural attractions, and bustling restaurants.





#### **DAY 10-11: Noosa**

Pick up your rental car in Brisbane and enjoy a scenic coastal drive to Noosa for days 10 and 11. Relax on golden beaches, try your hand at surfing, or treat yourself to a spa day or a round at a world-class golf course. Cruise through the Noosa Everglades at sunset, learning about its rich history and unique ecosystems.

#### **DAY 12-13: Hervey Bay**

Travel to Hervey Bay for your next two days, a laid-back coastal haven. Swim, snorkel, or dive in its calm waters, and from July to November, witness humpback whales nursing their calves. Take a full-day tour of the unique Fraser Island to explore its rainforests, freshwater lakes, and sweeping sand dunes.

#### **DAY 14-15: Rockhampton**

Spend two days in Rockhampton, with grand Victorian architecture, leafy heritage streets and majestic cathedrals. Venture into 390-million-year-old limestone caves or join cultural tours to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, where you can try boomerang throwing.

#### **DAY 16-17: Airlie Beach**

Continue north to Airlie Beach for days 16 and 17, the gateway to the Whitsundays' 74 idyllic island. Spend a day on Whitehaven Beach, famous for its pure silica sand, swimming in turquoise waters, hiking to Hill Inlet, and soaking up the tropical sunshine.

#### **DAY 18: Townsville**

On day 18, enjoy Townsville's tropical charm. Enjoy the beaches, strolling through wildlife sanctuaries and museums, or take a ferry to Magnetic Island for secluded beaches, bushwalking trails, and the chance to spot wild koalas in their natural habitat.

#### **DAY 19-21: Cairns**

Conclude your journey in Cairns for your final three days of adventure. Swim at the Esplanade Lagoon and explore the rainforest village of Kuranda via the historical Scenic Railway. Take a catamaran cruise to the Great Barrier Reef and snorkel or dive at pristine outer reef locations.





# Escorted tour inspiration



Singapore

Uncover Australasia's highlights in style on this three-week escorted tour with stopovers. Begin with vibrant Singapore, then journey through Australia's east coast before unwinding in Fiji's island paradise. Each stop brings a new adventure, and we can tailor every itinerary to you.

## **DAY 1-2: Singapore**

Begin your journey with a two-day stopover in Singapore, the perfect chance to adjust to the time difference and unwind after your flight. Alternatively, dive straight into exploring lively markets, fascinating cultural museums, and world-class dining, leaving you refreshed and inspired for your upcoming Australian adventure.

## **DAY 3-5: Melbourne**

Spend three days in the iconic city of Melbourne, meeting your guide and fellow travellers over a welcome dinner. Take a private walking tour to uncover the city's vibrant markets, museums and cafes. Venture out to see the enchanting Penguin Parade on Phillip Island. Alternatively, drive the world-famous Great Ocean Road to marvel at the Twelve Apostles, or spend the day in the Yarra Valley sampling its renowned wines. Melbourne's mix of culture, coast, and cuisine sets the perfect tone for your trip.



Twelve Apostles

## **DAY 6: Alice Springs**

Fly to Alice Springs for your sixth day, and glimpse into the heart of Australia's Red Centre. Visit the historic Telegraph Station, a vital link in the country's early communication network. As evening falls, enjoy exceptional stargazing and a barbecue hosted by the environmentally conscious Falzon family at their Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre.

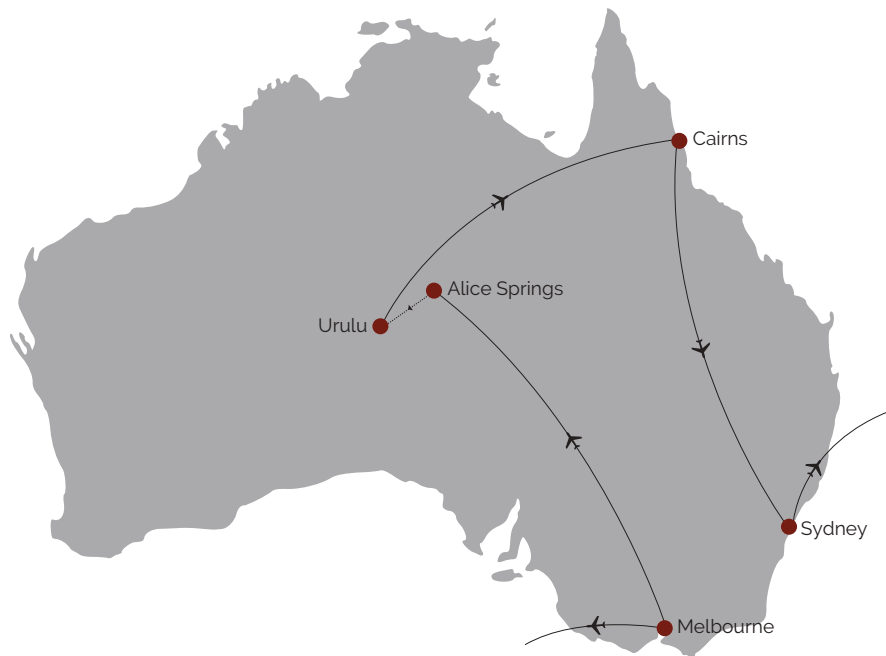
## **DAY 7-9: Uluru**

Spend three unforgettable days exploring Uluru and its surrounding wonders. Watch Uluru glow red and gold at sunset with a glass of sparkling wine in hand. Tour the base to see ancient rock art and hear Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. Visit Kata Tjuta's towering domes and walk through Walpa Gorge. Rise early for Bruce Munro's extraordinary Field of Light installation, followed by sunrise over the desert. Spend time with a local Aboriginal artist, learning Anangu culture, totems, and traditions before your flight to Cairns.



Kata Tjuta





#### DAY 10-11: Cairns

Days 10 and 11 will be in Cairns, immersing yourself in tropical Queensland's natural wonders. Cruise to the Great Barrier Reef aboard a high-speed catamaran, snorkelling among vibrant corals and marine life or viewing it all from a semi-submersible craft. In your free time, you can visit Kuranda, the 'village in the rainforest', and ride on the Skyrail Cableway for a breathtaking view of the canopy below.

#### DAY 12-15: Sydney

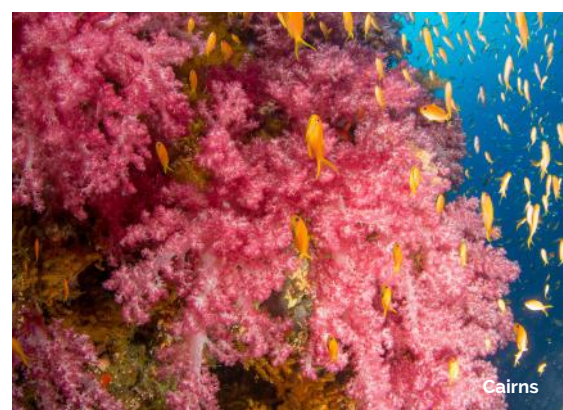
Conclude your tour with four days in one of the world's most famous cities, where iconic landmarks and beaches await. Take the ferry to Manly Beach and have lunch at one of the seafront restaurants. Wander through the Rocks district, the Botanical Gardens and take in the views of the mighty Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Don't forget a trip to Bondi Beach. If you are feeling adventurous, why don't you climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge or venture to the Blue Mountains to see the famous Three Sisters. End your stay with a memorable farewell dinner, the perfect finale before your onward journey in the morning.

#### DAY 16-21: Fiji

For those of you craving calm, unwind after your adventure filled holiday in Australia with six days in Fiji, where turquoise seas meet white sands and tropical forests hide cascading waterfalls. Relax on pristine beaches, snorkel amongst vibrant reefs, or kayak across glassy lagoons. There is a myriad of fabulous islands to visit from real hideaways to larger islands for exploring. With sun-kissed shores and endless natural beauty, Fiji is only a short flight away and the perfect paradise finale. Not to be missed.

### Your dream Australian adventure awaits...

We tailor every itinerary around you. Whether it's scenic road trips, flights between cities, or adjusting durations and destinations, it's all possible. Speak with our travel experts today and let us create a holiday that's uniquely yours.



Cairns



Bondi Beach



Fiji





## Contact Us

For more information and help  
with tailor making your holiday,  
talk to one of our friendly team

9am-7pm Mon-Fri  
9am-5pm Sat-Sun

UK: 01342 310580  
Ireland: 01 6649920

Or visit:  
[australiansky.co.uk](http://australiansky.co.uk)  
[australiansky.ie](http://australiansky.ie)